

New Hampshire Statewide Assessment 2012-2013

Superintendents, School Principals, and District Statewide Assessment Coordinators: As a new school year approaches, we want to thank you for your help in developing and administering a quality state-wide assessment system. Please extend our sincere appreciation to everyone in your schools and districts involved in statewide assessment for their careful attention to details. Thanks!

This memo includes information about three areas: NH Statewide Assessment System (NECAP, NH-Alt, and ACCESS for ELLs), Accountability, and NAEP. We plan to continue this annual notice. We hope it helps as you think about planning for the next school year. Information included in this message (organized by page number):

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The NH Department of Education is working to hire two positions: Director of Assessment and Director of Alternate Assessment as quickly as possible (see notice on next page). An announcement to the field will be issued as soon as these vacancies are filled. In the meantime, procedural questions related to NECAP and NH ALPS may be directed to Measured Progress. Policy issues should be directed to Dr. Paul Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education, NH Department of Education (271-3801, Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.gov).

NECAP Questions
Measured Progress Service Center
1-877-632-7774

NH ALPS Questions
Tina Haley, Measured Progress
1-800-431-8901

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What's New in NH Statewide Assessment for 2012-2013?

- First of all, I would like to share with you that both Gaye and I are retiring from the Department – me as of July 1 and Gaye as of August 1. Plans are underway to support both programs (NECAP and ALPS) going forward. Many parts of both programs will remain the same, but Department contacts will change. As the Department knows more, it will be widely shared with the field. On a personal note, Gaye and I can't say enough about how proud of you we both are. Over the years we have been blessed by our association with so many hard working, professional, caring, honorable, and thoughtful educators in New Hampshire. Thanks!
- The **NHSWADL** (New Hampshire State-Wide Assessment Distribution List) has been found. The list is not up-to-date. If you would like to update school and district school and district test coordinator list, please send the following information to Jennifer (Jiffi) Rainie (Jennifer.Rainie@doe.nh.gov): school/district name, name of test coordinator with email address.
- **2012-2013 Medical Emergency Exemption forms for NECAP, NH ALPs, and ACCESS for ELLs®** will be published on the Department's website by September 1, 2012 at: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm> within the "Notices" link
- **SASC – Request for State Approved Special Considerations** has been expanded to include two new categories – one for excessive absence from the last two months of the NH ALPs test window and one for students with progressive intellectual neurological deterioration. (posted online)
- **NECAP Online Writing Assessment:** Several NH schools will be administering the October 2012 NECAP Writing Assessment online to all their students in grades 8 and 11. Additional schools will be allowed to qualify in the spring of 2013 for the October 2013 NECAP Writing Assessment. **FLASH** – The NECAP Management Team has approved the use of the newly developed Measured Progress online testing platform (tentatively called Nimble Online Assessment) for fall of 2013. This new user interface will integrate their current online system (iTest) and all the development work that NH and the NECAP states have offered over the years with NimbleTools. This could be the look of our online testing platform in the future. All schools with grade 8 or 11 may want to take advantage of this opportunity before we transition to the SBAC test.
- **Spring 2013 NECAP Science Test: Computer administered accommodations via NimbleTools are no longer available.** Nimble online accommodation tools were developed and provided through federal research funds obtained by NHDoe several years ago and funding has ended. The results of this research project will impact the development of accessibility tools in the future.
- Volunteers are needed for 2012-2013 **Statewide Assessment Committees** (application available Sept. 1, 2012 at: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm> within the "Notices" link.

NECAP Science Bias Review – Contact: Deb Fleurant (603) 271-3838

Science NECAP Test Item Review – Contact: Gail Taylor (603) 271-8266

Reporting Updates from 2011-2012 school year:

- **ELL Accountability Reporting** for school year 2011-2012 tentatively will be released late July or early August, 2012.
- **NECAP Science and NH ALPs Reporting:** Confidential NH ALPs student level data will be released to districts on September 17. Confidential NECAP Science student level data will be released September 17 with public reporting to follow on September 19. Paper-copies of NH ALPs student-parent reports and scored 2011-12 portfolios will be shipped to schools on September 26.

Websites for NH Statewide Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability

<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/curriculum/index.htm>

<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/index.htm>

<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/accountability/index.htm>

New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)

In October, NECAP will be used to assess students in grades 3-8 and 11 students in reading and mathematics, and grades 5, 8, and 11 students in writing. In May, NECAP will be used to assess grades 4, 8, and 11 students in science.

NECAP Grade Level	What content areas are assessed?			
	October 1-23, 2012 (pick up October 24)			May 6-23, 2013 (pick up May 24)
	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
3	Yes	Yes	-	-
4	Yes	Yes	-	Yes
5	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
6	Yes	Yes	-	-
7	Yes	Yes	-	-
8	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

We will be running a series of workshops connected to both the fall and spring assessments. These include test administration workshops (prior to the assessment) and reporting/test interpretation workshops (after the assessment). The Test Administration workshops for the fall include face-to-face workshops for new test coordinators and new principals, a live Webinar for experienced test coordinators (that will be posted on our website for later viewing), and a Webinar for test administrators (that will be posted on our website for viewing). The registration site will be open in early August (iregister.measuredprogress.org). Other workshops will be posted later in the year.

Fall 2012 NECAP Test Administration Workshops

	Date	Time	Location	Seating
Pre-recorded Webinar for Experienced Test Coordinators	mid-September	Anytime	Any computer terminal	infinite
Pre-recorded Webinar for Test Administrators	mid-September	Anytime	Any computer terminal	infinite
New Test Coordinators and New Principals	Wednesday, September 12	9:00AM – 12:00	Bedford – SERESC	220
New Test Coordinators and New Principals	Thursday, September 13	9:00 AM – 12:00	Bretton Woods – Highland Center	75

We hope to be able to issue assessment reports connected to the fall NECAP in the fourth week of January. Your help with packing up fall NECAP material correctly and returning promptly will go a long way toward meeting this goal. This will include results for reading, mathematics in grades 3-8 and 11, and for writing in grades 5, 8, and 11.

Where do I find more information about NECAP?

Updates: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/necap/index.htm>
 NECAP Materials: <http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/necap/prep.htm>
 Contact: MP Service Center (1-877-632-7774)

NH Alternate Learning Progression (NH ALPs) Assessment

What's New for 2012-2013?

The New Hampshire Alternate Learning Progressions assessment will be administered for the third time during 2012-13. The system will be administered with no changes this year. In the many coaching sessions held during the past school year, we have observed greatly improved understanding of the new testing system across the state and student progress is happening in exciting ways.

We are continuing to gather “stories from the road” documenting teacher and student experiences with this new learning progressions system. These stories can teach us all a great deal, providing real-life examples illustrating how

students with multiple and severe cognitive disabilities engage and demonstrate meaningful academic growth and how our educational teams are sorting out how to deal with this new process. If you know of a teacher and student or parent who would like to be interviewed so that we can record their story, please let one of our NH ALPs field coaches (Allyson Vignola or Marie Cote) know this. With parent permission, we are also expanding our video library for use by District Trainers providing multiple examples for teachers of students with different access and communication needs successfully demonstrating the academic standards of the learning progressions. These resources have proven very useful to many.

Alternately Assessed Students in Grade:	What content areas are assessed in 2012-2013?			
	Reading	Math	Writing	Science
2	Yes	Yes	-	-
3	Yes	Yes	-	-
4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5	Yes	Yes	-	-
6	Yes	Yes		
7	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
8	-	-	-	Yes
10	Yes	Yes	Yes	-
11	-	-	-	Yes

Test Administration Manuals & Portfolio Template: These documents will no longer be printed in paper form.

They will all be available online for local printing this fall at <http://www.measuredprogress.org/NH-Alt>

Deciding Who Participates in NH ALPs Assessment: Qualifying Criteria & Decision Making Support

Go online to: <http://www.measuredprogress.org/assessments/clients/nh-alt.aspx>.

Then choose: “Participation Decisions, Guidelines & Forms.” The first 3 documents on this page are key.

Key Dates: (Additional detail will be posted online by September 1st. Major dates are below.)

- **Test Administration Window:** December 3, 2012 - May 17, 2013 (Training required before start)
- **District Registration of All Participating Students:** Due by April 12th. Full information will be posted this fall
- **UPS Pick-up of Completed NH ALPs Assessments:** May 31st.

Educator Workshops & Support:

Detailed information for sessions listed below can be found online at: <http://www.measuredprogress.org/NH-Alt> (See: “Training Sessions for Educators” link). Information posting dates are noted below.

Web-based Large Group Workshops: In all prior years, our large group statewide training workshops (Test Administration, Topic Sessions, and Test Report Interpretation) were held in various regional locations with very large group-size capacities. *This year*, all large-scale NH ALPs workshops will be offered through the web in a live, interactive format. Workshops will then also be recorded and posted on the NH ALPs website for later viewing along with a companion *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* document based on questions received during the live sessions.

- **October 15-19: Fall Test Report Interpretation Workshops (Web-based):**
Web-based NH ALPs Test Report Interpretation Workshops will be offered. Registration details will be posted by Sept. 1st.
- **January 14-18: NH ALPs Test Administration Workshops for 2012-13 (Web-based):**
Anyone can participate. School teams are *strongly encouraged* to participate together, but are *not required* to do so. General and special educators will need to collaborate to administer this assessment effectively. Teachers must be trained to administer this test. Registration details will be posted by December 15th.

District Trainer (Face-to-Face) Workshops: November 1st - December 21st

This successful program will continue this year in the same in-person format, with all sessions to be held at the NH Department of Education in Concord. Some choice of dates will be offered. Maximum program capacity this year is 160 participants. Program description and application information and form will be posted by July 15th.

All District Trainer Program applicants:

- Must submit completed application to NH DOE by fax on October 15th (See online instructions).
- Must be nominated by a district-level administrator
- Must successfully complete all 4 full-day District Trainer Sessions, passing all related topic tests
- Must commit, with district administrative approval, to serving as a professional learning & resource support person for educators in that district.

Coaching Sessions (Face-to-face, regional locations statewide, same format as usual): February 4th –May 10th
(Details will be posted online by November 30th.)

How can we prepare for the assessment?

1. As early as possible - teams determine which students qualify and decide who should participate. *Don't wait.*
2. As early as possible - update your Contact Information Form on the NH ALPs website to receive timely notices of upcoming test administration workshops and other training opportunities. The NH DOE does NOT know who needs to attend training- but you do. Let out-of-district providers know! Ask them to submit their contact information. If we have accurate, current contact info we can make sure the people who *most need* the information get it. Until a district registers a student for alternate assessment in March, we, at the Department, *do not know* where they are enrolled. By this time, training is over and *it's too late* for us to contact these schools. Please contact your out-of-district providers to update them.
3. Review the NH Alternate Learning Progressions with the team, and work together to find out where your student is currently functioning along these progressions. Find current performance levels and get started on instruction! See the website for resources and information. We'll update the documents this fall – but they are useful right now and there is a lot of support material on this site.
4. Ask yourself anchoring questions, like:
 - *Where, within the curriculum, is our student successfully communicating choices or attempting to answer questions, or showing interest and engagement? How might we engage his or her interest?*
 - *How effective is our student's communication system?*
 - *How does he or she initiate communication with us? Are we effectively communicating with him or her?*
 - *How can we improve communication with this student - especially about academic information?*
 - *Who are our team resource people for Reading instruction? Math instruction? Writing? Science?*
 - *Who knows the most about making content accessible and differentiating instruction?*
 - *Keep reminding yourself – this is a team process... and that AYP does not actually spell anything!*
5. Practice using a digital video camera. We're offering video user workshops this November to help teachers learn to use these tools effectively. Digital video cameras are not expensive and can be purchased through many education funding sources, including IDEA, technology, and school improvement monies. If you already have one, locate it and make sure it's working. You will need a digital video camera to collect data.

Where can I find more information about NH ALPs? Go online to: <http://www.measuredprogress.org/NH-Alt>

ACCESS for ELLs[®] English Language Proficiency Test



The number of English Language Learners (ELs) who took the ACCESS for ELLs[®] English language proficiency test in 2011-2012 was around 4,500. Districts need to become more aware of the civil rights and federal laws surrounding this growing population.

To determine which students are ELs, every family in NH should be given a Home Language Survey when their child is first enrolled in the district. The coordinating certified EL teacher in each school or district reviews the surveys to determine which students may be eligible for EL services. Those students are then screened using the W-APT and, depending on the scores, the certified EL teacher determines which students, if any, are eligible for EL services.

Once the certified EL teacher determines that a child is eligible for EL services, parents are contacted for their permission to enroll that child in the EL instructional program. **All ELs are required to take the ACCESS for ELLs[®] English language proficiency test during the testing period in January and February each year, regardless of whether parents accept or refuse ELL services for their child.** All students who are *eligible* for EL services must take the ACCESS for ELLs[®] test each year until they are deemed proficient whether the student is in a Title III school district or not.

- The W-APT is used in NH as the screener for English Language Proficiency. This screener is free and may be downloaded from the www.wida.us website. Only certified EL teachers are able to administer the W-APT. Please call Joanne Magarian at 271-3196 for a password.
- **This year, only NH certified EL teachers are eligible to become ACCESS certified administrators and give the ACCESS for ELLs[®] English language proficiency test.**
- Information regarding specific dates and time for training and testing will be posted on the ACCESS for ELLs[®] website in September (<http://tiny.cc/13gja>)
- The ACCESS for ELLs English language proficiency test will be available until the new assessment test (named, for now, as the ACCESS 2.0) becomes available in 2015. The new test will be a technology delivered annual summative assessment of academic English language development, along with an accompanying on-demand screener.
- For news and other important information from the NH Title III office and the ACCESS for ELLs[®] Assessment office at the NH Department of Education, please join the NH ESOL Listserve by contacting Dr. Suzanne Irujo, Listserv facilitator, at sirujo@bu.edu. This Listserv has information about conferences, courses, and other regional events. Districts may use this Listserv to post electronic ads for ELL teachers.

Where do I find more information about English Language Proficiency Screening and Testing?

Contact: Susan Morgan at 271-3719 or at Susan.Morgan@doe.nh.gov.

Website: <http://tiny.cc/13gja> or click on the letter A at the top of the NH DOE homepage and then click on ACCESS for ELLs[®].

Important Dates for 2012-2013 – NH Statewide Assessment

- **July 16-August 8:** Submit initial NECAP Label Request to Department for fall testing (through i4see). Districts should submit label requests for all public school students, and all Out-of-District placed students who are not placed in a NH Public School.
- **July/August:** Release of Title III Accountability reports
- **August 17:** Last day to accept orders for Braille and Large Print for Fall NECAP. Order Fall NECAP Large Print Test Forms and/or Braille test forms by calling Measured Progress at 877-632-7774. Please provide student name, SASID, and grade level as of September 2012.\
- **August 23:** Live Webinar for schools participating in Grade 8 or 11 NECAP Online Writing (9:00 – 11:00)
- **September:** EL Assessment Training calendar posted (see <http://tiny.cc/13gja>)
- **September 1:** User names and passwords released to Principals via e-mail for NECAP On-line Writing
- **September 4-28:** NECAP Online Writing Practice Test Window
- **September 12, 13:** NECAP Test Administration Workshops for New Test Administrators and New Principals
- **Mid-September:** Pre-recorded Webinar for experienced Test Coordinators and Pre-recorded Webinar for Test Administrators posted to NH DoE website.
- **Week of September 17:** Fall NECAP Tests Shipped
- **September 17:** Confidential Release of NH-Alt student level results (7:00 AM)
- **September 17:** Confidential Release of NECAP Science student level results (7:00 AM)
- **September 19:** Public Release of NECAP Science (10:00 AM)
- **September 26:** NH ALPs shipment of student/parent printed reports and portfolios to schools
- **September 26:** Last day to order second round NECAP Labels (through i4see)
- **October 1:** Last day to request O-Other Accommodations for fall NECAP
- **October 1-23:** NECAP Test Administration window (Pick up on October 24)
- **October 15-19:** NH ALPs online test report interpretation workshops
- **October 23:** Last day to request SASC for fall NECAP
- **November:** Order ACCESS for ELLs test
- **Dec 3:** NH ALPs Test Administration window opens for trained test administrators
- **Late December:** Schools receive shipment of ACCESS for ELLs test
- **Mid January through February:** Administer ACCESS for ELLs test
- **Late January:** Release of NECAP Results for grades 3-8, 11
- **January 14-18:** NH ALPs Online Test Administration Workshops
- **February:** NECAP Test Results Interpretation Workshops (Reading, Writing, Mathematics - TBA)
- **February:** Mid-year collection of ELL data
- **February 1:** ELL students enrolled in NH districts by February 1 must participate in the ACCESS for ELLs® test
- **March 1:** NH ALPs students enrolled in a NH district by March 1 must complete and submit a May portfolio
- **Early March:** Return of ACCESS for ELLs test to MetriTech
- **Mid March:** Braille and Large Print Orders for NECAP Science are due (for students new since October)
- **Early April:** Last day to submit initial NECAP Science Label Request to Department for spring testing (through i4see). Districts should submit label requests for all public school students, and all Out-of-District placed students who are not placed in a NH Public School.
- **April:** Spring 2013 NECAP Science Test Administration Workshops
- **April 12:** Student Registration for NH-ALPS due to NH DoE through i4see
- **May 1:** Return Materials for NH-ALPS sent to schools
- **May 6:** Last day to request O-Other Accommodations for NECAP Science
- **May 6-23:** 2013 NECAP Science Assessment test administration window (pick up on May 24)
- **May 23:** Last day to request SASC for NECAP Science, NH ALPs
- **Mid May:** Release of ACCESS for ELLs test results to schools
- **May 15:** Late Student Registration for NH-ALPS due to NH DoE through i4see (**CRITICAL: no registrations will be accepted after this date!**)
- **May 22:** Return Materials for NH-ALPS sent to schools for late student registrants
- **May 31:** UPS Pick-up of all completed NH-ALPs Assessment Portfolios (from attending school)

Accountability Updates for 2012-2013

The NH Department of Education is in the process of submitting an accountability waiver request to the USED. If successful, the newly developed state accountability system will look quite different than in the past. Please stay tuned for updates to this developing system that will take into account growth in reading and mathematics, a different view of subgroups, and a move from a conjunctive model to a compensatory model.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

State level NAEP assessments will occur this winter for reading and mathematics at grades 4 and 8, and mathematics at grade 12. The notification of SAU superintendents and participating school principals for NAEP 2013 has already been initiated by the NAEP State Coordinator. NAEP 2013 school principals will receive their scheduled assessment dates along with an overview of NAEP 2013 and informational material for principals and school faculty in mid-June.

Below are key dates related to NAEP 2013:

- May 2012 – Notification to Superintendents and Principals of schools sampled for NAEP 2013.
- June 2012 – Notification to Principals of assessment dates selected for NAEP 2013.
- September 2012 – NAEP 2013 School Coordinator Packets sent to NAEP 2013 schools.
- October 2012 – School Coordinators upload sample-grade student lists into MySchool website.
- January 2013 – Schools receive NAEP 2013 pre-assessment packet in preparation for NAEP Field Staff visit.
- January 2013 – NAEP 2013 Pre-Assessment Visit by NAEP Field Staff.
- January-March 2013 – NAEP 2013 is administered by NAEP Field Staff.

In addition to the administration of NAEP 2013, NAEP will be rolling out a more user-friendly version of its NAEP Questions Tool, sometime in the summer of 2012. Once online, the NAEP State Coordinator will be visiting interested schools to demonstrate the use and capabilities of the new Questions Tool.

Where do I find more information about NAEP?

<http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/naep/index.htm>

or contact: Tim Eccleston, 271-2298, timothy.eccleston@doe.nh.gov

Some **SAT/PSAT Test Dates for 2012-2013**

2011-2012 Test Dates	Test
October 6, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests
October 17, 2012	PSAT/NMSQT
October 20, 2012	PSAT/NMSQT
May 4, 2013	SAT & Subject Tests

Source: <http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-dates>
<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/reg.html>

AP 2013 Exams Schedule (not available yet)
In May 2012, AP exams were administered May 7-11 and 14-18.
Source: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/cal.html>

IB 2013 Exam Schedule
Provisionally scheduled for May 2 – 22, 2013
Source: <http://www.ibo.org/>, search on “exam schedule for 2013”

ACT Dates for School Year 2012-2013
2012: September 8, October 27, December 8
2013: February 9, April 13, June 8
Source: <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html>

Known Religious Holidays during NECAP Testing

School Year 2012-2013

OCTOBER 2012

- 4 Saint Francis Day **Catholic Christian**
- 1-7 Sukkot * - **Judaism**
- 8 Shemini Atzeret * - **Judaism**
- Thanksgiving - Canada - **Interfaith**
- 9 Simhat Torah *- **Judaism**
- 16-23 **Navaratri** ** - **Hindu**
- 18 Saint Luke - Apostle and Evangelist - **Christian**
- 20 Birth of the Báb * - **Baha'i**
- Installation of Scriptures as Gukru Granth - **Sikh**
- 24 Dasera ** - **Hindu**

MAY 2013

- 5 **Easter/Pascha** - **Orthodox Christian**
- 9 Ascension Day - **Christian**
- 15-16 Shavuot * - **Jewish**
- 19 **Pentecost** (Whit Sunday) - **Christian**
- 23 **Declaration of the Bab** * - **Baha'i**

* Means that Holy days begin at sundown the day before this date.

** Regional customs, group preference or moon sightings may cause a variation of this date.

Bold titles are primary holy days of a tradition.

For Additional Information on Religious Holidays

Go to: <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/2012.htm>
<http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/2013.htm>